

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite claims 1-10 and 12-15, as shown below in the detailed listing of all claims which are, or were, in this application:

1. (Currently amended) A matrix band, ~~characterized in that it consists~~ consisting essentially of fibers and a matrix, at least a portion of said matrix being at least partially uncured.

2. (Currently amended) Matrix band according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a portion of said matrix is in a cured form.

3. (Currently amended) Matrix band according to claim 1 ~~or 2,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said matrix is selected from the group consisting of methyl methacrylate, hydroxyethyl methacrylate, urethan dimethacrylate, triethylene glycol dimethacrylate, 2,2-bis(4-(2-hydroxy-3-methacryloxy)phenyl)propane, polymethyl methacrylate, starburst methacrylated polyesters, hyperbranched methacrylated polyesters and mixtures thereof.

4. (Currently amended) Matrix band according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said fibers are selected from the group consisting of inert glass fibers, bioactive glass fibers, silica fibers, quartz fibers, ceramic fibers, carbon/graphite fibers, aramid fibers, ceramic fibers, poly(p-phenylene-2,6-benzobisoxazole) fibers, poly(2,6-diimidazo(4,5-b4',5'-e)pyridinylene-1,4(2,5-dihydro)phenylene fibers, polyolefin fibers, fibers prepared from copolymers of olefins, polyester fibers, polyamide fibers, polyacrylic fibers, sol-gel processed silica fibers, collagen fibers, cellulose fibers, modified cellulose fibers and mixtures thereof.

5. (Currently amended) Matrix band according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said fibers are in the form of continuous fibers, chopped fibers, mat, sheet or mixtures thereof, and ~~in that~~ wherein they are oriented in one, two, three or four directions, randomly or mixtures thereof.

6. (Currently amended) Matrix band according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein it further comprises particulate filler material.

7. (Currently amended) Matrix band according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said particulate filler material is selected from the group consisting of inert glass, bioactive glass, metal oxides, ceramics, polymers and mixtures thereof.

8. (Currently amended) A dental restoration kit comprising a matrix band according to ~~any of the claims 1-7~~ claim 1, a restorative dental composite and an adhesive.

9. (Currently amended) Kit according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it further comprises an applicator device.

10. (Currently amended) Kit according to claim 8 ~~or 9~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said matrix band is preshaped in the form of a dental restoration, a dental crown or a dental bridge.

11. (Original) A prepreg comprising fibers and a matrix, at least a portion of said matrix being at least partially uncured, for use as a dental matrix band.

12. (Currently amended) Use of a matrix band according to ~~any of the claims 1-7~~ claim 1 for the manufacturing of a dental restoration, a dental bridge or a dental crown.

13. (Currently amended) Use according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said matrix band forms an integral part of the finished dental restoration, dental bridge or dental crown.

14. (Currently amended) Use of a matrix band according to ~~any of the claims 1-7~~ claim 1 in dental applications.

15. (Currently amended) Use according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said application is selected from dental restoration, dental bridge, dental crown and endodontic treatment.